

does map out a new emphasis on production of information needed to inform these important policy debates.

Members of the Science and Technology Committee have been working on improving this legislation since I introduced it earlier this year. The committee received comments from experts on climate change research throughout the country and held a hearing on this issue on May 3, 2007. The bill was marked up in the Energy and Environment Subcommittee on June 6. It is scheduled to be marked up before the full Science and Technology Committee tomorrow.

We all agree that a interagency climate change working group is needed and that the current U.S. Global Change Research Program needs to be updated. My bill, H.R. 906, is the best way to address this issue. I was pleased to hear assurances from Interior and the Environment Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman DICKS to Chairman GORDON that we will address this issue in conference and that the final appropriations bill language will reflect both current law and H.R. 906. I look forward to working with Chairmen OBEY, DICKS and GORDON on the final legislation.

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF
LEE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the centennial celebration of Lee County, North Carolina, in my congressional district. Lee County was created from portions of Moore and Chatham Counties on March 6, 1907 and became an official county July 2, 1907.

Lee County was named for General Robert E. Lee commanding general of the Confederate forces during the American Civil War and it is North Carolina's 98th county. The city of Sanford, named in honor of railroad engineer Col. Charles Ogburn Sanford, is the county seat. The county's early economy centered on agriculture, naval stores, and an iron works. Just prior to the Civil War in about 1853, the first commercial exploration of the area's coal veins was begun in the community of Egypt, now Cumnock. During the war, the coal was transported to Fayetteville on the Western Railroad, which had been built by slaves and immigrant Irish laborers. Once in Fayetteville, the coal was taken by boat on the Cape Fear River to the port of Wilmington. The Western Railroad extended to the town of Jonesboro, named after Col. Leonidas Campbell Jones.

After the war, the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line Railroad built southward and crossed the Western Railroad tracks. At this junction and passenger point, the rail-born village of Sanford grew. The city was incorporated in Moore County in 1874, and its population in 1880 was 236 persons. The County of Lee was formed through a bill passed by the General Assembly in 1907. Wagon and buggy travel through the sands from Sanford to Carthage, the county seat of Moore, was too laborious and time consuming for the busy people of the railway junction. A new county with a convenient governmental seat needed to be formed.

This was given overwhelming approval by a vote of area residents. Sanford's population in 1910 totaled 2,262 persons.

After 1907, with railroad and a new county government, Lee County began a period of rapid growth. The economy flourished with new industries including tobacco harvesting, brownstone quarrying, furniture making, brick works, and later textiles. By 1930 the county population numbered 13,400 people. After World War II, in 1947, the cities of Sanford and Jonesboro merged. The 1950 census of the city counted 10,013 residents while the population of Lee County was 23,522 persons. Like much of my Congressional District, Lee County has experienced rapid growth in recent years, and today some 56,908 North Carolinians live there.

Madam Speaker, Lee County has always been dear to my family since it is the birthplace of my lovely wife Faye Etheridge. It is fitting that we take a moment today to honor the centennial celebration of Lee County.

HONORING AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. BOBBY JINDAL

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. JINDAL. Madam Speaker, our sovereignty is dependent upon the brave individuals who fight to preserve American values. In World War II, Cpl John Reilly fought courageously alongside his fellow countrymen in order to safeguard the integrity of our great Nation. In the midst of battle, he risked his life to save the life of another. Cpl John Reilly's selfless actions reflect the wealth of his character; he exemplified bravery and deserves to be honored and recognized as a hero. The men that served alongside John Reilly speak of his heroics on the battlefield. Marine Cpl Roland Chiasson praises Corporal Reilly for carrying him to safety during a firefight on Iwo Jima, ultimately saving Marine Cpl Chiasson's life.

I am grateful for the sacrifices women and men like Cpl John Reilly have given in order to protect our country and the freedom it provides. As we celebrate our Nation's birth, I am honored to recognize and give thanks to Cpl John Reilly and the other men and women who have so selflessly served our country in the Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker and my colleagues in the House, please join me in honoring Cpl John Reilly for his dedication to our Nation.

**TRIBUTE TO BRITISH PRIME
MINISTER TONY BLAIR**

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, people throughout Western Civilization owe a debt of gratitude to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, a courageous statesman and world leader, who resigned his office today.

Oftentimes, leaders of courage fare much more favorably in the eyes of history than they do in the opinion polls of their day. Like Presi-

dent Harry Truman and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Prime Minister Blair will be remembered for his wisdom, his forbearance and his foresight.

The United States and free peoples throughout the world have had no truer friend than Tony Blair. Since he won the keys to No. 10 Downing Street in May 1997, he has steadfastly fought to promote human rights and to battle the scourge of terrorism. He has strived for peace in the Middle East, promoted Western aid to battle the AIDS epidemic and poverty throughout Africa and successfully argued for intervention against mass killings in the Balkans in the late 1990s.

After the horrors of Sept. 11, Blair recognized more quickly than most world leaders that the global fight against terrorism was not a battle for the United States to wage alone. Blair knew that all civilized nations had to stand together as one to battle the medievalism, violence and hate preached by al-Qaida and other Islamist groups.

Blair stood with the forces of freedom not just in word, but in deed. He committed British forces to serve with the U.S. military and other coalition forces in Afghanistan and in Iraq, and he bravely stood his ground against a rising tide of opposition among the British people.

I am proud to be a part of this body which several years ago bestowed Blair with the Congressional Gold Medal. I can think of no one more deserving.

Prime Minister Blair's visionary leadership will be missed on the world stage, but I trust that his vast talents will be put to good use in the pursuit of peace, justice and human rights for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I want to personally thank the Prime Minister and let him know how much I respect the tremendous work he has done over the past 10 years. He has had a positive impact on his nation and on the world. May God continue to bless him in all his endeavors.

**TRIBUTE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO
WILL BECOME CITIZENS OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON
JULY 4, 2007**

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who will take their oath of citizenship on July 4, 2007. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony will take place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the Hammond Public Library and presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, will be held at Harrison Park in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the globe to the United States in search of better lives for themselves and their families. The upcoming oath ceremony will be a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come

together and unite as members of a free, democratic Nation. These individuals realize the great things America has to offer. They realize that there is nowhere else in the world that offers a better opportunity for success and a good life than here in America.

On July 4, 2007, the following individuals, representing many countries throughout the world, will take their oath of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Daniela Gomez Alba, Vanhvilay Thongsawath, Faye Ghaly Samaan, Sean David Sternfeldt, Maria Del Carmen Garcia, Khaled Abdullah Mohamed Alkadhi, Jovica Georgiev, Evica Jankovic, Khadija Nasreen, Muhammad Munawar Uddin, Ljubica Andonova, Yasser Yousof Hussein Alsalahi, Reina Ahmad Elabed, Heidemarie Nealon, Nidal Khaleel Bader, Rosa Navarro, Irma Guadalupe Gallegos, Victor Manuel Salas, Hildeberta Ignacio, Ivan Ignacio Esquivel, Edgar Ignacio, Maria Gonzalez, Vassilka Ivanova Sokolova, Jose Ernesto Munoz Munoz, Margarita Lomeli, Rosalia Aguilar De Hernandez, Ramona Garcia, Hector Miguel Rivera Gallegos, Rafael Negrete Gentil, Stan Krzysztofak, Juan Carlos Bustos, Angelina Rico De Becerra, Maria Teresa Paredes De Sanchez, Thomas William Fridel, Mirko Koceski, Zivka Koceski, Phuoc Hong Tran, Ramachandra Mukkamala, Cristina Chavez Melesio, Maureen Allyson Fridel, Omar Mehidi, Priya Venkata Vishnu Mukkamala, Kameswari Kalluri, Carlos Alberto Garcia Morales, Sonja Sabo-Djuric, Maria De Jesus Galvan Briseno, Paul Derek MacGregor, Layda Eunice Salazar, Mary Ortiz, and Nancy Takla.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free Nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals, who will become citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2007, the day of our Nation's independence. They, too, will be American citizens, and they, too, will be guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic society, congratulate them and welcome them.

NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con Res. 169, and in recognition of National HIV Testing Day. As I speak, it is estimated that 180,000 to 280,000 individuals nationwide are HIV-positive but unaware of their status.

Today we commemorate this day because the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to plague our Nation. In Chicago, 22,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS, and more than 1,000 are infected annually.

And this disease is disproportionately impacting minorities. People of color account for 69 percent of the city's total population but represent 81 percent of recently diagnosed adult AIDS cases and 77 percent of recently diagnosed HIV cases.

Madam Speaker, these numbers continue to rise and we must do everything in our power to educate, prevent, treat and stop the spread of this deadly virus.

Madam Speaker, National HIV/AIDS Testing Day promotes awareness and empowers individuals to know their status, learn the facts about HIV and AIDS and take the proper steps to protect themselves and their communities.

In closing, I commend all of the organizations and individuals who participate in National HIV/AIDS Awareness day.

I encourage my constituents to get tested and I thank Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Englewood Neighborhood Health Center, the South State Family Health Center, the Taylor Family Health Center and others for hosting confidential testing services today in Chicago.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE AUDREY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a native of Southwest Louisiana to remember the lives that were lost 50 years ago today when Hurricane Audrey swept across the bayou. In the early morning hours of June 27, 1957, the Category 4 storm barreled ashore, claiming at least 500 lives in Cameron and Vermillion parishes. Two hundred of the storm's victims were children.

Hurricane Audrey is the seventh deadliest storm in the history of the United States. To date, Audrey remains the only storm of its size to make landfall in June. Too many of Southwest Louisiana's lifelong residents who had been seasoned by years of hurricanes did not heed the warnings to evacuate. Additionally, the storm struck the coast hours before its anticipated arrival, cutting off evacuation routes and trapping residents in the hurricane's path.

Unfortunately, we know that the kind of devastation and misery that Audrey brought to Louisiana are not isolated to that fateful day in 1957. Two years ago, when Hurricanes Rita and Katrina hit Louisiana, a new generation of Americans experienced first hand the destruction these storms can bring.

Powerful hurricanes continue to assault the shores of Louisiana. As we enter into the 2007 hurricane season, I urge Americans living along the Gulf Coast to take steps to protect their families and their property. Scientists predict that 17 named storms will develop in the Atlantic and Caribbean this year. Nine of these storms are expected to reach hurricane status.

Advanced preparation is key to weathering these storms. Let us take lessons from our past so we can minimize the potential for harm in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 550, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 533 and 534, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. When submitting to the record how I would have voted, I inadvertently stated the rollcall numbers incorrectly as 553 and 554. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 533 and "aye" on rollcall No. 534.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES PAUL BUTLER JR., ON HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Charles Paul Butler Jr., on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Charley Butler, a long time resident of Brundidge, Alabama, in Pike County, has been widely recognized for his community service, and I am honored to add my recognition on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Charley Butler and his family relocated to Brundidge, Alabama, in 1961. There began what would become a lifetime commitment to the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 34. That troop had been languishing for a number of years, but Mr. Butler spearheaded an effort to restore its vitality. He recruited a superb bullpen of adult leaders and lined up important sponsors such as the local Army National Guard Armory. The troop became the pride of the Alabama-Florida Council as one of the best equipped, most active troops in the region. Troop 34 consistently spent more days encamped than any surrounding troop and was the envy of all when it showed up at Camp Ala-Flo in its custom-painted Troop 34 school bus. Of most significance, Scoutmaster Butler was constantly teaching and imparting the values that are so important to the development of young men. During Mr. Butler's tenure as scoutmaster of Troop 34, seventeen members of the community earned the rare rank of Eagle, a remarkable achievement for a small troop from a small town.

Mr. Butler's contributions to the Boy Scouts have been widely recognized. The Boy Scouts of America awarded him the prestigious "Silver Beaver Award," top recognition for an adult volunteer leader. And in 1988, at "Scout Day" at the Brundidge United Methodist